



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

**State of New Mexico**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Drinking Water Bureau**  
**525 Camino De Los Marquez, Ste. 4**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-1816**  
**Telephone (505) 827-7536**  
**Fax (505) 827-7545**



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

For Immediate Release  
May 18, 2005

Contact: Mike Huber, Manager, DWB-DII  
Phone: (505) 827-7536 x1009  
Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Comm Dir.  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

**Environment Department lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for Val Verde Water Association**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Val Verde Water Association to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

The Val Verde Water Association, located approximately seven miles northwest of the Village of Angel Fire, was put on a “boil water advisory” May 13, 2005, due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E.coli*. NMED required that the system owner and operator notify all customers served by the system of this finding.

Actions to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination were promptly taken. These actions included shock chlorination and flushing of the entire water system.

Water samples collected since the shock chlorination and flushing have shown no Coliforms in the water system. Additionally, continuous disinfection equipment has been repaired at the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise the Val Verde Water Association to lift the “boil water order” for its Water System.

The presence of E. Coli in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of E. Coli are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for E. Coli in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of E. Coli or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The New Mexico Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system may call (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information contact Mike Huber, DWB-DII Manager, at (505) 827-7536 x.1009 or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

####